

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008

East Greenwich Town Council Chambers

125 Main Street

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A**

VOTE

7:00p.m.

Call to Order

The July School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. in the Town Hall. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-Chair, Merrill Friedemann, JeanAnn Guliano, Anne Palumbo, and Susan Records as well as Special Education Director, Paula Dillon, and Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford and Facilities Director, Robert Wilmarth. Mrs. Winters was absent.

2. Public Comments

Mrs. Lori McEwen, 98 Mawney Street, has concerns about classes being full at Frenchtown and her daughter having to go to Meadowbrook. She tried to meet with Mr. Meyers and Mrs. Crawford but was unsuccessful. She was told that her daughter was on a waiting list. She feels the teacher union contract is vague regarding class size and she questions the policy and contract. She would like the situation resolved as soon as possible in order to lessen the

anxiety on her child. She stated that she only asked for a twenty minute conversation with administrators and was told they wouldn't meet with her. Mrs. Cienki replied that the central office is working on the issue of full classes at Frenchtown but administrators should never refuse meetings.

3. Approval of Minutes - July 15, 2008 meeting

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2008 meeting with one correction under item 8.

4. New Business

4.1 Retirement

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the following retirement: The motion passed unanimously

4.1.1 Stanley Johnson, Computer Teacher at Archie Cole Middle School, effective June 23, 2008, under the Early Retirement Plan, A-7 of the Teachers' Contract.

4.2 Parental Leave

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the parental leave as follows: The motion passed unanimously.

4.2.1 Christina O'Day, Foreign Language Teacher at East Greenwich High School, for 8 to 10 weeks during the fall or winter months of the 2008-2009 school year.

4.3 Leave of Absence for Cole Middle School Teacher – Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to table this item. The motion passed unanimously.

4.4 Appointments

On a motion made by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointments:

4.4.1 Anthony Pape, Resource Teacher at Frenchtown School, effective August 26, 2008

4.4.2 Claudia Bridges, Speech/Language Pathologist for Hanaford and Cole, effective August 26, 2008, for one year only

4.4.3 Theresa Waggoner, 1.0 Social Studies Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 26, 2008

4.4.4 English Teacher (1.0) at East Greenwich High School, effective August 26, 2008

4.4.5 Donna Cancel, 0.25 Chemistry at East Greenwich High School, effective August 26, 2008

4.4.6 Brian Eagan, 1.0 Special Education Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 26, 2008

4.4.7 Ellen Garcia, 1.0 Gifted and Talented for Eldredge and Hanaford students, effective August 26, 2008

5. Home School Request for a grade one student

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the home school plan for a grade one student for the 2008-2009 school year.

6. Vote on Revisions to the Transportation Policy

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the revisions to the transportation policy. Mr. Meyers would like to add clarity to this policy and have reasonable transportation available to and from home and school as established by the Rhode Island General Laws. He noted that drivers cannot create additional stops but we would maintain the same level of services. We are not going to transport students from one side of town to another. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Plans for Opening of School

Mr. Meyers invite the School Committee to the teacher orientation day on August 26 at 8:00a.m. He noted that he has planned activities from 8:30 to 10:00a.m.

8. Update on EGHS Science Labs

Mr. Wilmarth stated that we previously had toxic waste in the drain pipes but it was removed but the pipes still show high levels of mercury. The sinks will be drained and a separate piping system will be put in. There will be a new tank on the outside of the school, and this will bypass the existing drain system. Sign-offs will go through the EPA.

9. Meadowbrook Farms School Playground

Mrs. Cienki stated that the PTG undertook a project to add an additional playscape to the Meadowbrook playground and raised \$100,000. She noted that high school woodshop students made the picnic benches. She thanked the Department of Public Works and for working together. She noted that this will complement the field's project.

10. Update on Fields Project

Mr. Wilmarth put a bid in the paper last week and had a lot of interest.

The bids are due back on August 29. He will come back to the School Committee in September with a recommendation. It was noted that Caito Corporation and the Gifford Group will do the preliminary site work. Mrs. Guliano would like bleachers and she hopes the project will come in under budget. Henry Boezi asked about the 30% reimbursement from the State.

11. Approval of Services to be provided to the School Department by the Town

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the landscaping and snowplowing services which will be provided by the town. Mr. Meyers noted that the town's grounds crew worked all summer and thanked them for their cooperation. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Cooperation with the Town on IT Services

Mr. Meyers stated that he is on the task force for Information Technology Services as well as William Sequino, Jerry Nettik and Wendy Schmidle. They are scheduled to meet the week of August 25th and will report back to the School Committee and Town Council. Mrs. Records asked to have the roles and responsibilities documented.

13. Update on School Facilities bond and approval of request for waiver from Board of Regents to hold the school bond referendum on November 4, 2008

Mr. Meyers asked for a waiver to put the referendum on the

November 4 ballot. A letter was received from the Department of Education stating that the School Committee needed to formally vote.

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the request for a waiver from the Board of Regents to hold the school bond referendum of November 4, 2008. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Isaacs, Town Council President, stated that now that the School Committee formally voted, the Town will take steps to move the vote forward and they will formally endorse it and put the \$52 million request on the ballot. He stated that they are committed to moving it forward.

14. Aramark Contract

It was noted that an \$18,000 grant was given to East Greenwich and our lawyer, and it is a one year contract renewable for four additional years. Mrs. Crawford noted that lunch prices are the same as last year and the new company is trying to replicate the high school's set up for Cole. She noted that Aramark will guarantee a surplus. Mrs. Palumbo would like the Aramark information out in the packets. Mrs. Friedemann asked if Aramark will have a survey for parents and students for feedback. It was noted that Aramark is holding open houses at each school and there will be a community kick-off.

15. Discussion of COLA

Mr. Meyers noted that there are four school department employees not covered by a COLA through the Retirement System. He noted that Councilor Boezi brought this issue up since there are town employees not covered. Town Manager Sequino will be asked to get an actuarial figure on the cost to add these employees. Mr. Isaacs

would like confirmation that it will not cost the town money. He also added that these employees may have to give something in return and that is under discussion. It was

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also noted that the COLA benefit goes by the position not the person.

Mr. Boezi noted that when he was given the COLA he was asked to pay 20% of his benefits and that was the sacrifice.

16. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Friedemann asked if the school department was hiring another grade one teacher. Mr. Meyers responded no. She also asked about cost savings for the Alternate Learning Program. Mrs. Crawford responded there could be a savings over time by bringing students back to their home high school. Mrs. Dillon, the Director for Special Education, stated that three more students could come back to the high school.

Mr. Day feels that taxpayers should be given every opportunity to speak to administrators when they come into central office.

Mrs. Guliano spoke about the proposed new graduation requirements. She noted there is a meeting on August 26 at Exeter/West Greenwich High School. The Board of Regents will vote on this at their September 3 meeting. We will put out a notice on our list serve. Mrs. Nota-Masse, High School Principal, noted that the Department of Education doesn't have a plan in implementing these requirements and is fearful that if it is passed, it will be another mandate.

17. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Custodian and Secretary/Paraprofessional Contract Negotiations

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary